

NOURISH 'OHANA

PARTNERSHIPS

Key Pilina

In partnership with Hawai'i Foodbank, KEY Project provides a variety of food distributions that support communities along the Windward Coast of O'ahu. Beyond the physical nourishment, the gatherings provide the community with so much more. *p. 4*



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CONNECT WITH US!

Hawai'i Foodbank is here — during blue skies and gray



With ongoing economic challenges and potential federal shifts, our community has faced a lot of uncertainty so far this year.

We are closely monitoring the latest federal updates, including potential changes to emergency food programs and funding sources. While many details are still unfolding, **we are actively assessing how these shifts may impact our families and neighbors facing hunger** – as well as our network of hunger-relief partners. We will

continue to share updates as we learn more. Here's what we currently know:

- Food insecurity remains high. Nearly 1 in 3 Hawai'i households struggle with food insecurity, and demand for food assistance remains at historic levels. **Last quarter alone, we served an average of 171,000 people per month** – a 13% increase from the same time last year and twice the number we supported before the pandemic.
- Federal funding is crucial. About 20% of our revenue comes from federal sources, and **federal food programs make up 22% of the food we distribute.**
- Potential cuts are looming. The USDA has already canceled \$1 billion in local food purchasing for schools and food banks nationwide, and critical funding for emergency food programs may be reduced or discontinued. In addition, we recently learned that **seven anticipated shipments of federally funded food have been canceled or are at risk of being canceled.** This represents a potential loss of more than \$500,000 worth of food statewide this year.

Amid these challenges, **we remain steadfast in our mission to provide uninterrupted access to safe, nutritious food.** We are actively working with our partners to advocate for funding solutions, strengthen local food systems, and ensure we can continue meeting the growing need. One example is the **Farm to Families legislation** currently being heard. This measure would provide funding to purchase fresh, local produce directly from Hawai'i's farmers while ensuring families in need receive healthy food.

As we navigate these uncertain times, your partnership is more critical than ever. Thank you for standing with us in the fight against hunger – during blue skies and gray. Your support ensures that, **no matter what comes next, we will continue to be here for our families and neighbors in need.**

With much gratitude and aloha,



MISSION: At Hawai'i Foodbank, our mission is to nourish our 'ohana today while we work to end hunger tomorrow.

Nourish Our 'Ohana is the official newsletter of Hawai'i Foodbank. This publication serves to thank our donors and inform the public about Hawai'i Foodbank events, volunteer opportunities, community partnerships and more. If you do not wish to receive a copy, please email donorservices@hawaiifoodbank.org or call **808-954-7853** to have your name removed from our mailing list.



Realizing Zero Hunger in Hawai'i

Taking action to end hunger is a moral, economic and public health imperative

by Dr. Albie Miles, Associate Professor,
Sustainable Community Food System,
University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu



Hawai'i, celebrated for its beauty and cultural heritage, faces an alarming crisis: household food insecurity. According to *The State of Food Insecurity in Hawai'i* report, nearly 1 in 3 residents – 30% – struggle to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food. This situation is even more dire among Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian communities, where chronic food insecurity exceeds 40%.

These figures are not just statistics; they represent our children, kūpuna, families, coworkers and community members forced to choose between housing, medicine or their next meal. Hawai'i's food insecurity rate, nearly three times the national average, is socially constructed and solvable through targeted public and private sector investment. Solutions include raising the minimum wage to a living standard, funding universal school meals, expanding SNAP and WIC enrollment, and increasing support for programs like Double-Up Bucks.

The recent *2024 ALICE in Hawai'i Report*, released by Aloha United Way, underscores the broader economic challenges fueling food insecurity. While households below the poverty line decreased to 12% from 14% in 2022, nearly 29% of Hawai'i's families remain classified as ALICE – asset-limited, income-constrained, employed. These households live paycheck to paycheck, and nearly half of those below the ALICE threshold face food insecurity.



Hawai'i Senate Bill 1250 and its companion House Bill 428 have been proposed this legislative season, asking state leaders to strengthen Hawai'i's emergency food system by funding a Farm to Families program. The Farm to Families program would provide funding for purchasing from local farmers in order to improve emergency food access for families while also opening up a local market for farmers during times of economic crisis.

Rising living costs and inflation disproportionately impact these families, forcing extreme measures like overdrawing accounts, borrowing money and cutting essential spending.

As a community, we must act with urgency, guided by the principle that food is a fundamental human right. To do otherwise is a moral failure.

Food insecurity transcends politics. It speaks to human equality, aloha and kuleana. Ensuring access to adequate food is not only a moral imperative but also an investment in our collective future. Global evidence shows reducing food insecurity improves public health, reduces healthcare costs, and enhances education and workplace productivity. In Hawai'i, addressing

hunger also strengthens local food systems, supports local producers and builds resilience against future shocks.

The impacts of chronic hunger are devastating. It exacerbates diabetes, heart disease and depression, straining our healthcare system. For children, hunger stunts development, lowers academic performance and increases long-term health risks. Addressing food insecurity is not merely about alleviating hunger – it's a strategy to reduce preventable diseases, create healthier communities and improve economic outcomes.

Achieving zero hunger in Hawai'i yields significant and measurable social and economic benefits. Reliable

food access increases productivity, reduces absenteeism and improves educational outcomes. Policies such as expanding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, funding universal school meal programs and enhancing food bank support will pay for themselves through long-term gains in public health, economic stability and human potential.

Food security policies can also bolster local agriculture. By prioritizing affordable, locally grown food, Hawai'i can reduce reliance on imports, create jobs, circulate money locally and promote sustainability. A robust local food system not only counters supply chain disruptions and climate change but also

Our Community ▶▶▶ AT WORK



Hawaii's Foodbank President and CEO Amy Miller presented the keynote on the state of food insecurity in Hawaii during the 2024 Hawaii's Food System Summit at the University of Hawaii - West O'ahu. The event brought together over 150 advocates from across the islands to discuss critical issues facing our food system.

strengthens food sovereignty.

Hawaii has the resources and knowledge to address food insecurity. What's needed is political will and community commitment. The moral argument is clear: no one in Hawaii should go hungry. The economic and social case are equally compelling. Achieving zero hunger will make Hawaii healthier, more prosperous and resilient.

The recent Hawaii's Food System Summit emphasized the urgency of this issue. It's time for state leaders, businesses and communities to prioritize food security as central to Hawaii's future. Achieving zero hunger reflects the true spirit of aloha – a vision within our reach. Let us act now to ensure no one in our islands is left behind.

About the AUTHOR

Dr. Albie Miles is an associate professor of sustainable community food systems at the University of Hawaii - West O'ahu, with a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from UC Berkeley.

His research spans biophysical sciences, focusing on biodiversity and ecosystem services in agriculture, and social sciences, examining structural challenges to sustainable, equitable food systems. With over 20 years of experience, including work with the UN FAO and UC Santa Cruz, he co-directs the Transforming Hawaii's Food System Together initiative and the Ke O Mau Center for Sustainable Island Food Systems. He also serves as chief specialty editor for *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* and is on the executive committee of INFAS.



Kaua'i Warehouse Distributions

Roughly a quarter of households across the Garden Island continue to struggle with hunger, and this includes nearly 1 in 3 keiki. Responding to the ongoing need to nourish members of the Kaua'i community facing hunger, our Hawaii's Foodbank Kaua'i team now offers monthly food distributions directly from the Lihu'e warehouse in the heart of Puihi. Multiple food pickup options for are available including drive-thru and walk-up. These additional warehouse distributions aim to provide even more families and neighbors with dependable, consistent access to safe and nutritious food.



State and City Employee Food Drives

The State of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu, in partnership with Hawaii's Foodbank, officially launched their 2025 employee food drives to help fight hunger across the islands. Last year, the food drives collected donations to provide enough food for 500,000 meals – and this year's goal has been raised to 515,000 meals. To kick off the drives, University of Hawaii Athletics collected food and monetary donations at various UH sports events on Feb. 28 and March 1. Both food drives will run from through May 9, encouraging employees and residents to donate food and funds to support local families.

More Than Service Hours

For teens, regular community service has many benefits beyond just service hours

by *Curstyn Yoshimoto*
Communications Coordinator 

Let's be honest: When it comes to teenagers, volunteering can be a hard sell. However, with nonprofits like Hawai'i Foodbank constantly in need of volunteers and many high schools requiring students to complete service hours, it's a win-win situation.

Students who volunteer regularly can further their personal development and growth – beyond just fulfilling mandatory service requirements. By working together towards a common goal, volunteering can be beneficial for strengthening relationships with family and friends as well as fostering new relationships with others. Teens can also grow



in self-confidence and feel a sense of accomplishment for completing an important task.

Increasing civic engagement through activities like volunteering empowers teens to become more aware of current issues facing their communities – like food insecurity – and become

motivated to advocate for these causes in the future.

At Hawai'i Foodbank, volunteers are at the heart of the mission and are part of our year-round efforts to provide nourishing food to our families and neighbors facing hunger. It's important that younger generations become aware of

the issues surrounding food insecurity and continue to get involved – so we can work together to end hunger in Hawai'i.

A variety of volunteer opportunities are available for those ages 8 and up. These include sorting donations at the warehouse, distributing food at an 'Ohana Produce Plus location, sign waving on Food Drive Day and more. Ages 15 and younger must be accompanied by an adult 18 or older. School clubs and organizations are also welcome to sign up for group volunteering opportunities.

For more information on volunteering at Hawai'i Foodbank, please visit HawaiiFoodbank.org/volunteer.

Kukui'ula Festive Parade of Homes

Holiday event at South Shore community raises \$80,000 for Kaua'i's keiki

by *Tisha Remigio*,
Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i Assistant Director 

Kukui'ula, a luxury residential and resort community on the South Shore of Kaua'i, hosted its Festive Parade of Homes event in partnership with Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i to close out 2024. At the event, guests toured six custom-built luxury homes in the Kukui'ula community, enjoyed light refreshments and activities, and brought food and monetary donations to support those facing hunger in the community.

For each donation of \$25 and above, guests received an entry for a chance to win one of six prizes, ranging from a signed Mike Coots "Shark" book to a grand prize of a two-night stay at The Lodge at



Kukui'ula. Grand prize winner and Kaua'i native Shawna Tamayose said, "Growing up on Kaua'i, giving back to my community became a core part of who I am. Today, I honor that commitment by dedicating a portion of my profits to charities focused

on ending world hunger. Supporting Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i enables me to give back to the island that shaped me while championing a cause that uplifts and enriches the lives of our people."

Tisha Remigio, Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i assistant

director, said the event was a great success, with over 10,000 meals worth of food collected and \$80,000 raised to support the Food 4 Keiki School Pantry program, which provides free snacks, shelf-stable foods and fresh produce to keiki and their families at 18 public and charter schools in Kaua'i County.

Tisha added, "With 1 in 4 people, including 1 in 3 keiki, needing food assistance, the hard work of reducing hunger never ends. Everyone's donation ensures that keiki receive the nutrition they need, and parents don't have to put things like paying for electricity ahead of feeding their families."

Shop Local, Nourish Local

In support of Hawai'i Foodbank, Keiki Kaukau owner April Hail helps nourish local keiki with her Hawai'i-themed toys

Keiki Kaukau, meaning “kid food” in Hawaiian, is a local toy company featuring unique Hawai'i-themed wooden toys, books and puzzles that introduce keiki to the diverse cultures and cuisines of the islands while they play. Since its launch in 2019, Keiki Kaukau has supported Hawai'i Foodbank's mission by donating 3% of its sales to provide more nutritious meals to local keiki in need.

Keiki Kaukau was established by Hawai'i mom April Hail when she took a break from high school teaching to raise her growing family. “It was in that time I had noticed that there was this absence of culturally informed toys that reflected all the beauty and diverse cultures of Hawai'i – specifically the food thing because my two-year-old was really into playing pretend food,” she explains.

The original Keiki Kaukau play food set was born from April's idea to bring Hawai'i foods to toys. It features local favorites like loco moco, musubi and papaya. “I never intended to build it into a business,” she says. “But it kind of just snowballed from there, and I found that I enjoyed creating products.”

Some other popular Keiki Kaukau items include the “Local Favorites Collection” of wooden puzzles, featuring foods from the classic Hawaiian plate to Filipino dishes and dim sum.

“A lot of kids growing up maybe had that feeling like their culture's food



Former Punahou School teacher and mother of three, April Hail is the founder of Keiki Kaukau, a local toy company that designs original toys, books and games that celebrate the diverse cultures of Hawai'i. April donates a portion of all sales to Hawai'i Foodbank's Food 4 Keiki programs – helping provide food for over 112,000 nutritious meals to date.

was not accepted,” April says. “Bringing elements of Hawaiian culture, as well as other cultures that we have here, more to the fore where kids can see themselves and their families represented in this physical way – I think there's something validating in that experience.”

About her collaboration with the Foodbank, April shares that “When I started with the original play food set, I knew that I wanted to have some sort of community

partnership built-in, just as a small way to give back to this place that has given me so much. The Foodbank was a natural fit for that.”

“I was aware of hunger because my mom grew up in poverty,” says April. “She would tell me that sometimes she would have to choose between filling her stomach and having bus fare to get home.”

“Experiencing hunger – not knowing for sure when or what your next meal is

going to be – can impact you very quickly, especially with children who are developing and who we want to learn and be able to focus in school. To have food insecurity, I think that can have really debilitating effects, which is why I think Hawai'i Foodbank's work is so important – just to give families a sense of security and support in meeting those needs,” she says.

To date, Keiki Kaukau has helped provide food for over 112,000 meals.

KEY

PILINA

Beyond physical nourishment, KEY Project's monthly food distributions with Hawai'i Foodbank provide the community with so much more.

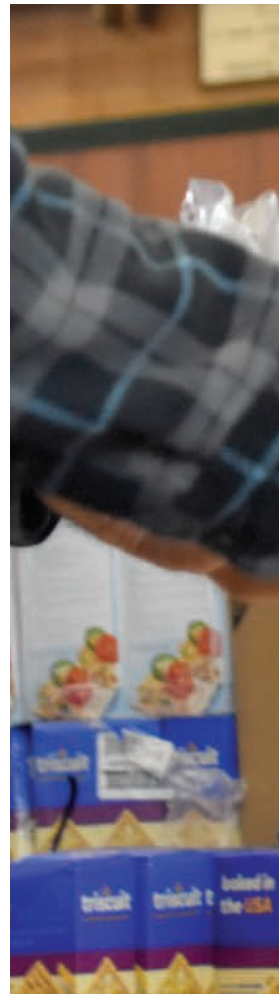
Story by CURSTYN YOSHIMOTO

Tucked away beneath the lush, green Ko'olau Mountain Range, a lone building stands just off Kamehameha Highway along Waihe'e Road. This humble yet inviting building is home to Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project, a community center that facilitates a variety of programs, events and other services aimed at supporting the needs of families and individuals throughout Windward O'ahu.

"It's a very special place. It's very unique, very different from any other place around the island – or any place in the world," states Kalae Kukahiko, facility manager at KEY Project, when describing his Windward community. "You can't quite put a finger on it, but all I can say – it's filled with a lot of love and aloha."

That same feeling permeates the walls of KEY Project, and it exemplifies the organization's

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pilina (connection) to its community. “What makes KEY project unique is really the place that we are in and the community that we work with,” adds Joe Wat, community development coordinator at KEY Project. “We’re a community center at the end of the day. If nobody’s here, it’s just a building. But when our community gathers – and our community is from Kāne’ohe to Kahuku – that is what

“ You can’t quite put a finger on it, but all I can say – it’s filled with a lot of love and aloha. ”

KALAE KUKAHIKO

makes this place special. It’s the people that choose to gather here and the stories that they bring.”

Originally founded in 1968 to serve low-income, at-risk youth in nearby semi-rural areas, KEY Project has expanded its services throughout the years to meet the evolving needs of its diverse, multicultural community. Despite “Youth” being a part of its name, KEY Project now works to create solutions that support community members of all ages, from keiki to kūpuna.

“Our community has always, historically, been very resilient. Very problem solving, very kind, very generous,” describes Desiree Martinez, community development coordinator at KEY Project. “I hear stories from my grandparents and from my family, and that’s how it was back then. And it still is like that now – except there are a little bit more challenges and barriers.”

Currently, 1 in 3 households across

the island are facing food insecurity, meaning not every member of the household is receiving enough food to live an active, healthy life. Recent challenges, including rising costs of living and the expiration of pandemic-related support systems, continue to strain families even further.

“Food is definitely a need,” Desiree says of her community. “You could have all these other resources and all these other things, but, if somebody’s hungry, they might not be able to focus. By addressing food challenges and barriers, we’re able to help the other parts of a person’s life.”

Identifying a need to provide this broader level of support to the communities it serves, KEY Project opened a food pantry in 1997, in partnership with Hawai’i Foodbank, where community members can take what they need up to twice per month. Since then, services have expanded to a variety of other Hawai’i Foodbank



programs, all aimed at increasing access to safe and healthy food. These include a monthly Senior Food Box distribution and multiple 'Ohana Foodbank Distributions – part of Hawai'i Foodbank's 'Ohana Produce Plus program – in Waihe'e and Kahuku. For many families and neighbors, these food assistance opportunities are their only consistent source of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"KEY Project, this place, is really about community," says Joe. "And food, at its core, sharing food and spending time together – that's how you build community. I think that's why KEY Project has been a partner of Hawai'i Foodbank for decades."

Since launching in late 2019, the 'Ohana Foodbank Distributions have provided neighbors and families with food for over half a million meals. Last year, Hawai'i Foodbank and its agency partners like KEY Project supported over 5,300 Windward households.

“ Food is such an important gift from the world. It's the thing that makes sure that we can keep on doing whatever it is we're trying to do tomorrow. To get to tomorrow, we have to be well fed today. ”

JOE WAT

"I see a lot of different faces," explains Kalae. "Some feel that shame because they need to be here for the services that we provide, but it's just reminding them that it's okay – and that we all struggle at times."

Beyond the physical nourishment, the KEY Project team explains, the 'Ohana Foodbank Distributions provide members of the community with so much more.

"I truly feel that, as we are putting those bananas and those packages together, that we are filling it with the aloha spirit," affirms Kalae. "And so,

as we pass that on, it actually passes to them, you know? There's a special connection."

"Food is such an important gift from the world," adds Joe. "It's the thing that makes sure that we can keep on doing whatever it is we're trying to do tomorrow. To get to tomorrow, we have to be well fed today ... And I think that giving out the food to people is just like a 'Hope to see you here tomorrow. Hope to see you here next week. Hope to see you here in a month. I hope we're all going to make it together.' That's the goal." 🌱



Nourishing THE Next Generation

“Our students come a lot more prepared in the sense of being ready to learn ... It’s not just the academic side, but to look at the whole child and ensure that all their basic needs are being met.”

ration

Through its Food 4 Keiki School Pantry, Nānākuli Elementary School partners with Hawai‘i Foodbank and ‘Elepaio Social Services to provide its students with greater access to safe, nutritious food.

by CURSTYN YOSHIMOTO

Hunger can be quite unforgiving – even when it comes to the littlest members of our ‘ohana. Twenty-nine percent of Hawai‘i’s keiki are currently struggling with food insecurity, which means they are not receiving enough food for an active, healthy life. Even worse, 6% of our keiki are going without food for whole days at a time. On the Leeward coast of O‘ahu, thousands of students rely solely on school-provided free meals and snacks to get them through each day. This reigns true for many keiki at Nānākuli Elementary School, located on the west side of O‘ahu.

Before knowing of resources like the Food 4 Keiki School Pantry program, Principal Lisa Higa took it upon herself to provide support out of her own pocket for students who came to school without food.

“I used to have students come to me, and I used to be the one providing the healthy snack, whatever it would be,” she shares.

However, it wasn’t just a few hungry kids.

After the health team and teachers expressed concerns about students often being distracted in the classroom and going to the health room with stomach aches due to hunger, Nānākuli Elementary sought a solution to better support their students’ needs.

Last school year, the school started a Food 4 Keiki School Pantry with Hawai‘i Foodbank and ‘Elepaio Social Services, distributing healthy snacks and additional bags of food (“pantry bags”) weekly for students to bring home to their families.

“It’s offered to every single child,” says Nani Estevez, food distribution program manager at ‘Elepaio Social Services and main facilitator of the School Pantries. “If the child is not on the list the day of the Pantry, they can



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still sign up regardless. We don't tell anybody no," she explains. "Who am I to say what their home situation is like?"

As an affiliate of the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and agency partner of Hawai'i Foodbank, 'Elepaio Social Services hosts School Pantries at several public and charter schools on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu – helping keiki and their families access more nutritious foods without the financial strain that can come with making healthier choices. For many households, "It's either paying a bill or buying groceries," says Nani. "The food insecurity down here is so high, and it doesn't help that the cost of living and the cost of food is going up so much," she adds.

Every Tuesday afternoon, 'Elepaio brings a truckload of food from Hawai'i Foodbank to Nānākuli Elementary, and from there, Nani's small but mighty team readily packs it in bags for easy pick-up after dismissal.

With smiles from ear to ear, students walk up by classroom to the School Pantry to pick up their healthy snack bags, and some meet their family members to help carry additional pantry bags home, too. A variety of shelf-stable and fresh food items are offered each week. Leftover snacks from the School Pantry are distributed to the school's health room. "They really count on it, you know? It's not wasted," Lisa says.

With fresh fruits like pineapples, papayas, pears, kiwis and apples, the School Pantry at Nānākuli Elementary

“ Just making sure that the family needs are met at home beyond the school day – that connection, that partnership, I would like to continue as long as we can. I think it's a great service, from the Foodbank, as well as 'Elepaio, to make an impact in our community.”

has helped distribute over 8,300 pounds of produce to its students and their families since the start of the program. The school has served as many as 587 children during a single distribution – which includes students and their siblings at home – based on a one-day high attendance.

Now in its second year, Lisa says the School Pantry has made a big difference. "I think our students come a lot more prepared in the sense of being ready to learn," she explains. "I'm just grateful. It's not just the academic side, but to look at the whole child and ensure that all their basic needs are being met."

Hawai'i Foodbank recognizes the important connection between health and hunger, and the particular need for nutritious food for our keiki. Children who experience food insecurity can face an increased risk of cognitive issues, aggression, anxiety, behavioral problems, hospitalization, depression, and suicidal ideation. By ensuring that our keiki have enough to eat through initiatives like the School Pantry program, we can collaboratively help safeguard their healthy development

and nurture their ability to thrive in the classroom.

Nani says that beyond providing food, School Pantries help struggling families have peace of mind. "You know that, if you don't send your child to school with a fruit or snack, there's somewhere on campus that has it," she says.

And despite the stigma that often comes with receiving help, to the keiki and their families receiving food, the School Pantry brings hope. "Seeing the excitedness, the eagerness – we have families coming out of the car now to pick up from the Pantry," says Lisa.

Rather than feeling shameful, they can go home feeling empowered, knowing they can put food on the table.

Lisa adds, "Just making sure that the family needs are met at home beyond the school day – that connection, that partnership, I would like to continue as long as we can. I think it's a great service, from the Foodbank, as well as 'Elepaio, to make an impact in our community."

For more information on School Pantries and all of Hawai'i Foodbank's Food 4 Keiki programs, visit HawaiiFoodbank.org/keiki. 🍌

Airbnb Provides \$1 Million to Combat Hunger in Hawai'i

Airbnb's donation to Hawai'i Foodbank will help provide food for approximately 2 million meals across the state

Hawai'i Foodbank has announced a \$1 million donation from the Airbnb Community Fund that will help to provide food for approximately 2 million meals to families, kūpuna and keiki in need across the islands. Airbnb's donation will benefit all affiliate food bank partners across the islands – Hawai'i Foodbank on O'ahu and Kaua'i, Maui Food Bank, and The Food Basket on Hawai'i Island – to support communities statewide.

"We're deeply grateful for Airbnb's incredible generosity," said Hawai'i Foodbank president and CEO Amy Miller. "Many in our communities continue to struggle with rising costs, and we're seeing firsthand the increased demand for food assistance. This support from Airbnb will enable us to continue to meet the immediate needs of our neighbors across the state while also providing an opportunity for us to leverage the donation to tackle food insecurity in the future."

Food insecurity in Hawai'i has been reaching critical levels in recent years. The donation comes at a time when Hawai'i Foodbank is serving an average of 171,000 individuals each month – an increase from previous years, reflecting the growing economic hardships facing local households.

"Airbnb and local hosts are deeply committed to strengthening communities



The donation is part of the Airbnb Community Fund, an initiative Airbnb launched in 2020 to directly support local communities and the people who live there. Hawai'i Foodbank is one of this year's grant recipients, which includes more than 160 organizations making a difference in over 30 countries across six continents.

throughout Hawai'i," said Janaye Ingram, Airbnb community partner programs director. "This Airbnb Community Fund donation will support the important work of the food banks to combat food insecurity across the islands, helping make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it most."

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"Each month, Maui Food Bank serves 40,000 individuals in need, and this gift plays a vital role in providing nutritious food options to those facing food insecurity," described Lisa Paulson, CEO of Maui Food Bank. "Maui Food Bank extends its heartfelt gratitude to Airbnb for their incredibly generous contribution to support hunger relief in Maui County."

In describing the impact on Hawai'i Island, Kristin Frost Albrecht, executive director at The Food Basket, added, "The Food Basket, Hawai'i

Island's Food Bank would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Airbnb for this incredible gift. Given that 40% of Hawai'i Island's households are food insecure, this generous donation will go to immediate good use to help our many island families who are struggling daily to put food on their tables."

The need for food assistance across the entire state has been exacerbated by ongoing economic challenges, including the lingering impacts of the pandemic, rising inflation, the devastating wildfires on Maui and other factors. Hawai'i Foodbank continues to work alongside agency partners and community organizations to distribute fresh produce, shelf-stable goods and essential nutrition to those who need it most.

"This donation allows us to expand our efforts at a time when many families are forced to make tough choices between food and other basic needs," added Miller. "The impact will go far, but we know there is still much work to do. Alleviating food insecurity is a shared community responsibility, and our food banks statewide need continued community support to ensure that everyone in Hawai'i has access to the safe and healthy food we all deserve to thrive."

To learn more about the Airbnb Community Fund, visit airbnb.com/communityfund.



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